The Orthodox Herald

Read in more than 6000 households *"Celebrating our 48th year" 1952-1999*

Volume 48, No. 5 ISSUE 568 **SEPTEMBER 1999**

BEFORE THY CROSS

We come to the Church for a service sometime between September 14/27 and September 21/October 4 and we see the cross on the table in the middle of the church. It is beautifully decorated with flowers and basil leaves and we wonder why. Unfortunately, we didn't attend the vesper service on September 13/26 so we missed the beautiful procession when the cross was taken from the altar and placed on the table. We wondered why the church bell was rung the evening before not knowing that it was done so that if we didn't get to the service we could make the sign of the cross and share in thought the adoration of the Cross.

We failed to fast on the day itself and so did not think to bring to memory the Passion of Christ and vow that we would follow the example of Christ. My conscience bothered me when the choir started to sing: "Before Thy Cross, we bow down in worship, O Master, and Thy holy Resurrection, we glorify," and a tear came to my eyes at my negligence. I wondered why the emphasis on the Cross at this time. Returning home, I opened my bulletin and found the answer. It read:

This Holy Day on September 14/27 has several names. It is either known as the Exaltation or Elevation of the Cross. Neither name grabs our attention. Elevation means simply to raise in today's meaning; while Exaltation has little meaning. However, upon checking the dictionary we read: "Exalt is to lift up with joy, pride, or success; to elate." This explains this Holy Day which came about because of certain historical events.

After the Crucifixion of Christ, the place where he died was looked upon with contempt by the pagans. In the year 70 when Roman Emperor Titus conquered Jerusalem, he destroyed the city. Between the years 117 and 138, Emperor Hadrian built a new city on the same site and gave it a new name. In the process, he commanded that the Holy Grave of the Lord be covered with stones and earth, leveled off and an idol be put on top. On Golgotha,

(Continued on Page 27, Col. 1)



Church of Holy Spirit in Rohatyn (Galicia), built 1598

DIRECTION IN NEW YEAR

On September 1/14 the date when the Church New Year starts, Luke 4:16-22 is read. It tells about Jesus going to the synagogue as was His custom and He was given a passage to read. It was from Isaiah 61:1-2. We are told when He finished the reading: "Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him."

And they were watching, waiting, listening closely. They wanted to know what He would say to them. As we continue in this first month of a New Year, this sense of intently focusing on Jesus and His message invites us to watch closely, to look intently for the message of God in our lives throughout the coming year. To do this we need to be deliberate about listening to what happens in our life each day, to keep our inner eyes open so that we can see how it is that God moves through our days, to open the ears of our mind and our hearts so that we can hear the Voice of God beckoning to us in each and every person and event.

Looking intently for God in the midst of our everyday life presumes that we believe God is there. It also requires a reverence for every part of our lives, whether or not we enjoy that aspect of life because each part is an opportunity to encounter the Divine Presence. Those daily glimpses of God that we receive when we are ready and willing to listen closely provide the direction we need for our life.

ATTITUDE IMPORTANT

The parents' attitude towards Church and Sunday School is crucial.

There are parents who are habitually late for Church. The result is that the children miss part of the Sunday School lesson. The continuity of the lesson is destroyed. The class is continually interrupted by latecomers. The teacher becomes frustrated.

But even more important is what happens to the student. The child knows that, for important things, one has to be on time, i.e., public school for example. The habit of coming to Church and Sunday School late, or just occasionally, teaches the child that God is not as important as public school, or the piano lessons, or the hockey game – for all of which one has to be on time.

Another example is the attitude of parents toward coming to Church on Sunday. For some parents it doesn't take much to stay away from Church – just a tiny bit of rain will do it. But parents never stay from work on Monday morning because of rain. So the child learns that work is more important than God.

Is it a wonder, then, that children grow up to adopt a system of values that leaves out God entirely? Punctuality and faithful attendance at Church impress upon children the importance of God and of our Orthodox Christian value system.

Fr. V. Lakusta

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Orthodox Christians feel that having icons in their homes help to bring them closer to God and the saints. An icon of Christ, and one of the Mother of God, are carried in procession before the bride and the groom. They are placed on the table before which the marriage ceremony is held. These icons are given to the couple to put in their icon corner, or on an icon shelf. Every Orthodox home should have its icon corner at which the family prayers are said.

THE ORTHODOX HERALD
(USPS 600-140)
(ISSN 0744-1495)
Published monthly by
The Orthodox Herald, Inc.
Transjurisdictional Publication
Special non-profit rate
Entered as Periodical-Class Mail at
Hunlock Creek, PA 18621 and Mahanoy
City, PA 17948 an additional mailing office.
Founders and Editors: V. Rev. W. Basil
Stroyen, M.A., Ph.D., D.D. and Nina Bohush
Stroyen, R.N., D.D., D. Litt
Phone 570-256-7232
Annual Subscription $7.00 a year.
$12.00 for two years.
Packet Plan Rate on Request
Address all correspondence to:
P.O. Box 9
Hunlock Creek, PA 18621-0009
Contributions are tax deductible
Published since 1952

NEWS CHRONOLOGY

SEPTEMBER 1999

DIED: Father John Zeleniak (retired) in Taylor, PA. He was one of the early pioneer priests in the Carpatho-Russian Diocese now located in Johnstown, PA.
Father George Pokrowsky (retired) in Ottawa, Canada
Preotesa Cornelia Hategan in Cleveland, OH.
Father Dimitri Ermakov in McKeesport, PA.

SPECIAL EXHIBIT in the New Jersey State Museum opened this month and features Imperial Russian art and artifacts never seen in the West. The museum is located on West State Street in Trenton and is open daily. For info: 609-292-6464 to purchase tickets to "Russia: Unseen Treasures" call 1-800-766-6048.

THE FIRST THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL in the U.S. for the training of Orthodox clergy was located in Minneapolis, MN in 1905. It was relocated to Tenafly, NJ in 1912 and closed in 1923. There were no seminaries until 1938, when St. Vladimir's in New York and St. Tikhon's in So. Canaan, PA were opened. A projected third seminary in Chicago, IL never saw the light. St. Herman's Seminary in Kodiak, AK was opened in 1973.

SOON TO BE READY FOR RESEARCH will be the 1,000-year-old Patriarchal Library in Alexandria, Egypt. The Museum will also be restored with double the space it now occupies. On the ground floor of the building, which was built in 1850, are the offices of the Patriarch Petros VII, Pope and Patriarch of Alexandria and All Africa and spiritual leader of all Orthodox Christians of the Dark Continent.

NOT ONLY DID NATO fail to respect the Orthodox plea to stop bombing on Holy Pascha, but the Orthodox world was outraged by British pilots who wrote the inscription "Happy Easter" on bombs hitting Yugoslavia.

STEPHEN ANDREW CVERCKO, age 15, was tonsured a reader. He is a third generation choir director following his grandfather Andrew Cverko, Sr. and father Andrew Jr. He has been taught by his grandfather, father and Dr. Nickoloff and sings responses at memorial services, funerals, weddings, Pre-sanctified liturgies, Vespers and Liturgies. He also sings with several choirs. Kudos to him and all those encouraging him.

THE CEMETERY IN STREATOR, IL has been cleaned by the young people of the Wheaton, IL parish. Following the cleanup, the graves were blessed – the first time in 75 years.

THE RUSSIAN BROTHERHOOD OF ORTHODOX (RBO), an insurance group, raised over a half million dollars in 1943 and 1944 to pay for several World War II planes. These included a bomber and 2 fighter planes. They carried the names: Carpatho-Russia and Spirit of Kiev.

SOME WONDER WHY the Orthodox Church does not allow eulogies during the funeral service. In "Generic Funerals" it was stated that the Christian funeral is a "service of worship." Worship should be directed toward God, not the deceased. Appreciation for the loved one can be expressed while avoiding human glorification. The latter tendency is evident, especially in some recently highly publicized funeral services which consist of little more than stories and eulogies for the deceased. Personal reminiscences can help people cope with loss and are appreciated at a "memorial dinner" when the family receives friends.

TWO PATHS Papal Monarchy - Collegial Tradition by Michael Whelton is available for $22.50 from Regina Orthodox Press, PO Box 5288, Salisbury, MA 01952, telephone (978) 463-0730. The information in this book is unknown to most Orthodox and Roman Catholics alike.

PERMISSION HAS BEEN OBTAINED by the Bulgarian Orthodox Church to start a nunnery in Jerusalem. The 10 nuns will have as their main duty the welcome and accommodating of pilgrims to the Holy Land from Bulgaria.

THE ORTHODOX RESURRECTION CHAPEL in the Dachau concentration camp was built in August 1944. Behind the altar is a large ikon depicting angels opening the gates of the Dachau concentration camp and Christ leading the prisoners to freedom. Services are held regularly and names of Orthodox who have died in Dachau or in other Nazi concentration camps can be sent here so that they can be prayed for. For all those who died "at this place, or at another place of torture."

GRANDPARENTS' DAY is September 12 this year. A reminder for grandchildren to honor their grandparents and an opportunity for a parish family to honor their Babas or Perohi People, most of whom are grandparent age.

ST. HERMAN'S SEMINARY in Kodiak, Alaska is searching for a permanent administrator. Orthodox clergy and lay men and women who are interested in the position write to Administrator Search Committee, St. Herman's Seminary, 414 Mission Rd., Kodiak, AK 99615.

RESOURCE HANDBOOK FOR LAY MINISTRIES, having articles on Church growth, prison ministries and youth, is available from Orthodox Christian Publications Center, PO Box 588, Wayne, NJ 07474-0588 or call 973-694-5782.

A GROUP HOME for individuals no longer capable of independent living but not yet ready for life in a nursing home has been established in Columbia, MD. St. Matthew House, a 15-apartment facility, was blessed by Metropolitan Theodosius. For info write: PO Box 2003, Columbia, MD 21045 or call 410-992-0608.

INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES, 711 W. 40th St., Suite 306, Baltimore, MD 21211, Telephone 410-243-9820 is accepting tax-deductible contributions to support its humanitarian efforts in many parts of the world. Up to March, $15 million in emergency aid was used in Yugoslavia.

•Before Thy Cross

where the Saviour was crucified, he erected a temple dedicated to the goddess Venus. In Bethlehem, where Jesus was born, he erected an idol to Adonis. He did this to obliterate the places where Jesus was born, lived, taught, suffered and rose with glory. He hoped that the people would forget Christ.

When Constantine the Great ascended the throne two hundred years later, he, along with his mother Queen Helena, decided to restore the city of Jerusalem and built a church where Jesus suffered and to destroy and then consecrate all the places where Hadrian had tried to eradicate the memory of Jesus.

St. Helena traveled to Jerusalem, even though she was quite elderly, to oversee the rebuilding. She desired more than anything to find the Cross. She sent workers to dig in several areas and they finally came upon three crosses near the place of execution. By miracles, it was determined which Cross was the one on which Jesus was crucified. With great joy, Patriarch Macarius and Queen Helena lifted up the Cross so that all the people could see it. Later the Church of the Holy Sepulchre was constructed on the site enclosing within its walls the place of the crucifixion and His tomb. This raising, elevation of the Cross occurred on September 14/27 and a Holy Day was instituted to commemorate the Cross.

The Orthodox Church has many Holy Days which act as milestones throughout the year to bring our attention to things of the spirit. If our religious experience is limited to Divine Liturgy and receiving Holy Communion on Sunday, it is our failing and not the fault of the Church that we are not spiritually fed.

BELLS NECESSARY

We missed the pealing of bells when we left Weisbaden, Germany, (1970-'74). Here in the U.S. our churches are rapidly changing to electrified recordings and for some reason they are programmed to play infrequently. Visiting Russia recently and hearing bells across the waters of White Lake, I realized why Russians miss the bells when they leave their native land. We all know the songs, "Vecherne Zvon/Evening Bells" and "Monotonously Rings the Bells."

Bells played a large part in the Orthodox services, and books were written on the proper time to ring the bells. Various forms of bell-ringing, each with their own name and meaning, developed to express a range of feelings. The ringing of bells became an art and different ways of combining the peal of the bells received names such as Trezvon (ringing bells together three times with pause in between); Dvuzvon (Simultaneous ringing of all bells twice with pause between); Perezvon (ringing of each bell separately beginning with largest to the smallest); Perebor (Slow, single ringing of each bell beginning with smallest to largest and then all bells together. This may be repeated several times.)

Although bells came into the church from Western Europe, they differ in that Russian bells are stationary, the clapper strikes it for sound. The bells appeared with the reception of Christianity by St. Vladimir in 988. Wooden boards and metal hoops beaten with hammers were used and are still used in some monasteries. Strangely enough, Russia took bells not from Greece from where she received Orthodoxy but from Western Europe.

Russian bellringers attained great mastery of bell ringing and were famous throughout the world. I can remember my father telling us that people came from all over the world to hear the bells at Eastertime. On this day the Dormition bell, located in the bell tower of Ivan the Great in Moscow, was rung and gave the signal for the bells of all 5000 churches to be rung. Whoever heard the Paschal bells of Moscow would never forget it. The powerful, festive sound permeated to Heaven a victorious hymn to the Resurrection of Christ.

Some of the bell-ringing has been captured on tape and can be ordered from Holy Trinity Monastery in Jordanville, NY.

A CENTURY OF SUPPORT

With the onset of World War II, the country turned its sights beyond its own borders as sons, brothers, and husbands went overseas to defend all they held dear. Fraternal groups, such as the Russian Brotherhood Organization whose sole purpose had been to look after the needs of their members, now focused their efforts in helping their adopted nation. When the U.S. government held bond drives during World War II, the R.B.O. and others generously responded. Between March 1, 1943 and April 1, 1944, three separate Bond Campaigns were held to raise funds for the purchase of two fighter planes and one bomber – with each campaign exceeding the actual plane costs by $30,000-$60,000! The Carpatho-Russia, the Carpatho Russian Defender, and The Spirit of Kiev (the last purchased through a joint campaign with the Russian Orthodox Mutual Aid Society of America) helped to defend our country through total bond subscriptions of $454,150.

Following World War II, thoughts once again turned home. Having a history of providing financial support to churches, the R.B.O. once again furnished loans for church buildings and renovations – most noteworthy among them was to St. Vladimir's Seminary for several projects. Financial assistance continues today as the R.B.O. is presently involved in discussions with several monasteries and mission churches to provide loans.

As young people looked to higher education as a means of improving their lives, the brotherhood assisted them in attaining their goals. Over the years numerous students have benefited from renewable R.B.O. scholarships.

A Matching Program was established to encourage members to do something for their home parishes. Lodges can have up to $500 "matched" for a local lodge project.

Three years ago the Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies began a data base using R.B.O. records. An international museum and library to preserve ethnic heritages, the Institutes archivists were especially interested in R.B.O. death records. Their website (www.balchinstitute.org) receives approximately 800 "hits" (visits) a month by individuals interested in genealogy and sociology research. According to R.B.O. president George H. Mihaly, Jr., some interesting information has been uncovered in the records. Among the members of the R.B.O. was the father of famous pop artist Andy Warhol. Other records tell tragic tales such as the one of a man injured in a mining accident. With ho shelter and no means of support, the man died of hypothermia and malnutrition. "Seeing that cause of death gave us a window into the past to see what our people sacrificed and endured for what we have today," shared Mr. Mihaly.

What began as a means of support for immigrant laborers and their families, the R.B.O. continues to support our people and churches – from one century to the next.

"Strength in the Faith
Strength in the Family
Strength in the Heritage
Strength in our Future." R.B.O. Motto

Margaret Pysarchyk

FUNDS

ALASKA AND MISSION – Marian Glovinsky, John Russian, Robert Magruder, Mary Saxe, Anna Smerechnak, Margaret Petty, Ethel Watlock, Elizabeth Nagorny

ALASKA FUND – Mary Polanski, Margaret Dolchok

MISSION FUND – Martha Bortnick

ETHNIC CHUCKLE

Dorohaya Tyotya Maria,

Yak tam kolo vas? Toot shitko OK noh yah taka busy. Yah working nah me garden. Yah digovala platz nah vegetables. Noh yah mam trouble, e yah neh znam shto yah gotta do. Mozhe veh me can helpovatee. Boh yah znam zhe tam oo krayoo takee knowledge passed on.

Tak eeday, last fall yah plantovala bulbzee: daffodilee, tulips ee druhee spring kwitke. All zemoo long yah chekam, ee chekam nah spring to see totee bulbzee come out. In my mind yah mam picture yak shumno going to look.

Preshol spring. Belee snow esche kola porchyu kolee yah vedelya tiny green leaves pushing up ot ground. Yah taka excited – yah behala doh houseoo ee dostala me husband to show him.

Every morning, even before yah mam me coffee, yah going outside to check up on me plants. Every day more and more coming up. Yah taka happy boh shitkee growing. Then one day kolee yah checking yah dumam zhe couple missing nah end. A next day, I'm sure. Me tulipsee disappearing, one by one. Yah neh znam what I gotta do. Yah dumam ee dumam; finally, yah nashla mothballs from closetu and yah scattered them around. Noh toh neh helpovaloh.

Next morning more plants gone. Then yah got me garlic juice out ee yah spillovala around. Toh neh working either yah gave up on tulips noh yah mam takee shumnee daffodils.

Yah bulla nah me yard about that time ee me next door neighbor – tota Amerikanka – looked over the fence ee kazhe me, "Anna have you noticed that strange smell we have around here lately? I wonder what it is."

Yah yeh nech neh poveela boh ohna taka snooty. Noh yah dumam mothballs ee garlic yeh strange combination. Yah znam zheh ohna budey looking for strange smell till next rainfall.

Budte Zdrovee
Hanya

ONE LINE PRAYERS

We are told to pray without ceasing. Many Orthodox pray the Jesus Prayer and wear or carry chotki (prayer ropes) to remind them to pray. This list of one line prayers under several categories should help you to get started. The following prayer has given me courage. "The Father is my Hope, the Son is my Refuge, the Holy Spirit is my Protector.

Praise:
Glory to God!
Thanks be to God!
It is good for me to be near my God.
The Father is my Hope, the Son is my Refuge, the Holy Spirit is my Protector.

To the Mother of God:
In you, I place my trust; help me to do God's will.
Never cease to intercede for those who honor you.
Save your servants from danger and distress.
After God, we run to you as our heavenly intercessor.

For inner strength:
I can do all things through Christ who has strengthened me.
Through the might of Your cross, + have mercy on me.
Speak to me, O Lord; Your servant is listening.

In time of trial and temptation:
Set a guard before my mouth and put a portal around my lips.
Guard me, O Lord, by the power of Your holy and life-giving Cross and keep me from all evil.

Communion:
Taste and see that the Lord is good!
You are our God, we have no other Lord but You.

The Holy Spirit:
Come, O Holy Spirit; dwell within me.

The departed:
Have mercy on the soul of Your servant, N..
May the memory of N. be eternal.

Verses of Saint John Chrysostom
Lord, sprinkle into my heart the dew of Your grace.
O Lord, plant in me the root of all blessings: reverence for You in my heart.
O Lord, grant me to love always to do Your will.
Lord, send Your grace to help me, that I may glorify Your holy Name.

Before meals:
Christ our God, through the prayers of Saint N., *(of the day)* bless the food and drink of Your servants, for You are holy, always, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

After meals:
Blessed is God Who is all-merciful and provides us with every heavenly and earthly blessing, always, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Ray Mastroberte

Dabs of Thoughts

The ancient Holy Day of the Elevation of the Cross celebrates the finding of the True Cross by St. Helena on September 14/28, 320. It reminds us of Christ's triumph over death. The fact that the Holy Cross is celebrated at the beginning of autumn is important. This sign of the Lord's victory over darkness is raised up just at the time when darkness is starting to return to the world.

Christ is not Jesus' surname, rather it is a title that is expressive of His ministry. The word "Christ" comes from the Greek and is the Greek translation of the Hebrew word "Messiah."

Do you remember when you had to strain to see the music book when you sang in the choir? There generally was one book for each part. Often, these books were beautifully and painstakingly copied by the choir master. Each part had only their own music so that they were familiarly called soprano or alto or tenor or bass books. Now we have books for everyone and few choir members.

This is year 7507 on the Orthodox Church calendar. This is calculated from the beginning of the world.

Procrastination is a sin which leads to certain sorrow;
But I can drop it anytime ... I think I'll start tomorrow.

A Valaam priest told us that a saint need not be formally recognized by the Church. Many are saints by tradition of a certain area.

When we come up to venerate the Cross at the end of the Divine Liturgy, the priest says: Christ Is in our Midst!
We answer: Is, and shall be!

Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a great battle.

From the beginning the Church was a singing Church. It inherited that from the Jews, for Philo tells us that often they would spend the whole night in hymns and songs. One of the earliest descriptions of a Church service we possess is that of Pliny, the Roman governor of Bithynia, who sent a report of the activities of the Christians to Trajan, the Roman Emperor (98-117), in which he said: "They meet at dawn to sing a hymn to Christ as God." The gratitude of the Church has always gone up to God in praise and song.



EDITORS' NOTES

Although September is no longer the beginning of the New Year on the civil calendar, many activities start in September, making the more relaxed days of summer a happy memory.

Here in Northeast Pennsylvania the leaves are starting to change color. The golden rod brightening the wayside have warned us from late in August that school vacations will soon be over and the familiar yellow school buses will again roam the roads. In the middle of the month, perhaps sooner this year because of the drought, acorns will start pinging on the roof. When the wind blows so many come down that it sounds like someone throwing stones! The mushroom pickers come looking for podpenki and lost hunters in their orange vests wander down the road. Fall is coming.

Parishes start religious education for adults and children. Nothing is more predictable and discouraging than the poor, late, frequent absenteeism of participants. Why is religious education something to participate in if there is nothing else scheduled? Nowadays it is not unusual for a parent to say their child is not in Sunday School because a soccer or some other sport has scheduled games on Sunday morning because of the shortage of fields. What is wrong with parents calling the officials and complaining about this? Perhaps a fee should be charged to compensate the teacher who has prepared lessons, sometimes taking hours of research, and presents them whether the participants number 2 or 20.

We received a hint from a reader who had a vision problem. He wrote that his son enlarges the pages of "The Herald" on a copier. He sent us a copy and it was much easier to read.

Some statistics at the last convention of the OCA showed that eight of the ten bishops were converts. The statistics also show that there is a loss of communicants; while there is a growth in percentage of converts. It would appear that a study should be done to find what the reason is for those coming into the church. Have they been satisfied with what they have found? And why the loss of adherents? Did they just walk away? Why? Any successful organization tries to satisfy its faithful members while it works to add new members. Active members should not be alienated.

More and more people get a packet of **The Orthodox Herald**. They distribute them to members of their parish or religious education classes. Many have written and said: "I enjoy distributing the "Herald." So many people ask me if the copy has come. It is interesting to learn which articles appeal to them. I am sending in payment for the next year."

God be with you.

The Stroyens

PRESS FUND

Thank You/Spasebo for your donations to this fund and for your many notes of appreciation and encouragement. We cherish your interest: Catherine Litvak, **Mary O. Kinn,** George and Zenia Zlotnick, Paul Godfrey, Margaret Petty, Suzanna Nemeth, DMD, John Russian, **Fr. Michael Hutnyan,** Irene Allen, Olga Weiss, Robert Magruder, Bernice Dombrowski, Mary Kochmaruk, Marian Glovinsky, **Michael Petronko, PhD,** Ethel Watlock, Stephanie Chmel, Rose Junda, Doris Rusinko, Peter Romanchak, Geraldine Petronka, John Sutko, Irine Barnett, S. Warycka, Anna Smerechnak, Donna Torhan, Aleksy Szachnowicz, Helen Ostrosky, Dcn. John Oleynik, Leon and Nancy Coval, Tanya Lazzari, John Barns, Harry Gobora, Helen Warhol, Olga Komenko, Eugenia Kribales, **Olga Peck, Anna Dorozynski,** Janet Jupin, Connie Morgan, Anonymous, Mary Saxe, **P. Tamoush.** Steve and Mary Polanski vigil light and prayers for health. Steve and Justyna Pelak vigil light and prayers for health. Fr. and Matushka Stroyen Mnohaya Letya to newlyweds **Steve and Justyna Pelak.** John and Theona Hatzi for prayers for soul of Fr. Ralph Rozdelski. Mary Ardan in memory of cousin Tonia. Phyllis Tarasovich in memory of dad Frank Kelley. Michael and Edythe Bondarchuk in memory of parents Fr. Arkady and Matushka Bondarchuk and Uncle Al Dran. Marge Yanchisin in memory of husband Myron, who died Aug. 16, 1988. The vigil light is lighted in the kiot made by George Walko. Prayers are said every morning.

* * * * * *

There is a saying that God is more delighted in adverbs than in nouns It is not so much what we do that is important but how we do it; not how much, but how well! Let's therefore serve God, not nominally or verbally, but adverbially.



Last month I mentioned that a Coulibiac of salmon, rice and mushrooms was served at the wedding buffet of Prince Edward and Sophie. One of my readers wrote that I had omitted spinach from the ingredients. She was kind enough to send me a recipe containing all the ingredients. I will test the recipe and have it in a coming issue.

Our trips to the Carpathians are usually held in the fall. Apples are plentiful. They may be small and not as perfect in appearance but the taste is superb. We enjoyed the apples we were given in St. Nicholas Monastery in Mukachevo. My relatives hosted us with boiled dumplings, sprinkled with bread crumbs and sugar.

Carpathian Apple Dumplings

3 1/4 cups flour
1 egg
salt
about 1/2 cup water
1/2 lb. apples, peeled, cored, cut in small pieces
1 1/2 Tbls. butter
1 1/2 Tbls. dried bread crumbs
1/3 cup confectioners sugar

Make the dough by combining the flour, egg, dash of salt, and as much water as needed. Knead until smooth. Roll out on floured board 1/4 inch thick. Cut into circles. Place some pieces of apple in center of each circle and fold over. Seal the edges well. Roll lightly in palms to make round dumplings. Carefully lower into a large kettle filled with salted boiling water. Test one when they float to the top. If done, remove with slotted spoon and place in a warmed platter. Mix butter with bread crumbs, fry for 1 minute, pour over dumplings. Sprinkle with sugar.

Note: Americans like sweeter pastries. Add sugar to apples, if desired.

* * * * * *

St. George is one of the best known saints today. He is portrayed slaying a dragon on most icons. Many say that this icon portrays the triumph of good over evil. In the Orthodox world there is a slightly different understanding of this saint. He is believed to help people who are mentally ill – he fights dragons of the mind.

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Hunlock Cr., PA 18621-0009
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The Orthodox Herald
Fr. Stroyen, Ph.D., Editor
P.O. Box 9
Hunlock Creek, PA 18621

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PATRIARCH ATHENAGORAS
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CHURCH NEW YEAR

The Church year is an attempt to set forth in consecutive fashion the life and teachings of Jesus. It starts with the Birth of the Mother of God (September 8/21) and ends with her Dormition on August 15/28.

September 1/14 is the date of the Liturgical New Year. On this day a convocation of the Hierarchs under the Ecumenical Patriarchate takes place in Constantinople proclaiming the beginning of the Indiction (New Year).

The First Ecumenical Council decreed that the New Year should begin on September as September was the beginning of the civil year for the Jews (Exodus 12:2). It was at this time that Jesus went into the synagogue in Nazareth, and opened the Book of Isaiah and read about His destiny. (See Luke 4:16-21.)

September first was the start of the civil year for many centuries before it was changed to January 1.

I NOW RESOLVE

I call to God in my trouble, out of my strain and stress, yet I often forget to thank Him out of my happiness. His love has never failed me. He helps me with every task and grants me bounteous blessings even before I ask. An ever present Guardian who always knows my need – He comforts me, and guides me in thought and word and deed. I now resolve to remember to enter into His courts with praise with gratitude and gladness however busy my days.

* * * * * *

The light that shines the farthest shines the brightest nearest home.

Home Bible Reading Schedule

SEPTEMBER 1999

1	2 Cor 13:3-13	16	Eph 1:1-9
2	Gal 1:1-10, 20-2:5	17	Eph 1:7-17
3	Gal 2:6-10	18	1 Cor 1:26-29
4	1 Cor 4:1-5	19	2 Cor 6:1-10
5	2 Cor 1:21-2:4	20	Eph 1:22-2:3
6	Gal 2:11-16	21	Eph 2:19-3:7
7	Gal 2:21-3:7	22	Eph 3:8-21
8	Phil 2:5:11	23	Eph 4:14-19
9	Gal 3:23-4:5	24	Eph 4:17-25
10	Gal 4:8-21	25	1 Cor 14:20-25
11	1 Cor 2:6-9	26	2 Cor 6:16-7:1
12	2 Cor 4:6-15	27	Eph 4:25-32
13	Gal 4:28-5:10	28	Eph 5:20-26
14	1 Cor 1:18-24	29	Eph 5:25-33
15	Gal 6:2-10	30	Eph 5:33-6:9

BIBLE STUDY

Ho[illegible] e you acquainted with the n[illegible] ooks of the Bible. Read the fo[illegible] graphs to test yourself be[illegible] start to underline your choices.

I once made a remark about the hidden books of the Bible. It was a lulu. Kept people looking so hard for facts and for others it was a revelation.

Some were in a jam. Especially since the names of the books were not capitalized. But the truth finally struck home to numbers of readers. To others it was a real job.

We want it to be a most fascinating few moments for you. Yes, there will be some really easy ones to spot. Others may require judges to help them. I will quickly admit, it usually takes a minister to find one of them and there will be loud lamentations when it is found.

A little lady says she brews a cup of tea, so she can concentrate better. See how well you can complete. Relax now, for there really are sixteen names of the books in the Bible in this story.

WINTER'S GRACE

Wisdom, simplicity, acceptance, and an understanding heart – these are the virtues that are supposed to come with age. And yet, they don't always come easily. Change and growth can be difficult, no matter what our stage in life. But growing spiritually is a lifetime process.

We must reflect on the past with gratitude and look to the future with hope. We must make a constant effort to live in the present moment and thus avoid the tyranny of time. God is calling each one of us to grow at this stage in our lives. Aging with grace is most of all a matter of walking with the assurance of God's presence and recognizing His compassion.

LETTER TO A PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANY

Gentlemen:

You manufacture aspirin and other medicines that relieve suffering, colds and fevers. The mixture you use in your tablets makes it possible for people to get out of bed and fight off headaches, muscle spasms, bad nerves and stress.

I have noticed that those tablets work wonders on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays ... and especially well on Saturdays. But people who take them on Sunday mornings seem to get no relief. They cannot get rid of their headaches and other pains and are not able to attend church.

Is it possible for you to examine your tablets and put in it an ingredient that will work on Sundays?